

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-02

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DRAFTED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 070303

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT STATE 070303 DATED 14 APR 73 SENT ACTION
MANAMA INFO TEHRAN KUWAIT JIDDA ABU DHABI MADRID

QUOTE. S E C R E T STATE 070303

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP, BA

SUBJ: SPANISH EXPORT OF 106 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES

REF: MADRID 734

1. SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING U. S. TO APPROVE
PROSPECTIVE SALE TO GOVT OF BAHRAIN SEVENTEEN 106 MM
RECOILLESS RIFLES TO BE MOUNTED ON SPANISH UTILITY
VEHICLES. THESE 106' S ARE SPANISH MANUFACTURED UNDER U. S.
LICENSE AND GOS HAS RECENTLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO CONSULT
WITH USG REGARDING PROSPECTIVE SALES. FYI: WERE ANY
SALE MADE BY SPAIN TO BAHRAIN, GOB WOULD BE REQUIRED TO
FURNISH BEFOREHAND TO USG ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD NOT
TRANSFER THESE ARMS TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT FIRST
OBTAINING USG APPROVAL. END FYI.
2. BEFORE RESPONDING TO SPANISH REQUEST, WE NEED ESTABLISH
MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR BAHRAIN TO ACQUIRE THESE WEAPONS
IN THIS NUMBER. ALSO NEED KNOW WHICH BAHRAIN SECURITY
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FORCE WOULD USE THESE WEAPONS. IF ASSIGNED EITHER TO BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE OR BAHRAIN STATE POLICE, WOULD REPRESENT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FIRE POWER. WOULD ACQUISITION BY ONE OR OTHER FORCE BE AN INTERNALLY DESTABILIZING FACTOR? EMBASSY MANAMA REQUESTED TO DEVELOP AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE REGARDING BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN ACQUIRING THESE WEAPONS TO ALLOW US TO MAKE A JUDGMENT.

3. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM TEHRAN, JIDDA AND KUWAIT RE POSSIBLE REACTION BY HOST GOVERNMENTS TO ACQUISITION THESE WEAPONS BY BAHRAIN. ASSUMING NEED IS JUSTIFIED, WOULD ACQUISITION OF THIS NUMBER OF RECOILLESS RIFLES POSE ANY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS? ROGERS

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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